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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Docket No. 98N-1038 "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food"


I would like to express my strong objection to genetically altered food, and especially to the lack of required labeling on food that has been genetically altered. I believe I have the right to choose not to eat this food, but I cannot protect myself if I don't know what food to avoid.

Among my many concerns about this issue are the unknown long term health effects of such altered food, the possibility of a bacteria, virus or insect attacking and wiping out entire strains of grain or vegetables that are all based on a common genetic code, and the danger to beneficial insects that might arise from food altered to resist pests and plant diseases.

As the decades roll by, we have repeatedly learned that scientific practices once considered safe are actually harmful in the long (or even the short) term. Until we truly know, based on decades of safe results, that genetically altered food causes no long term harm, I think we should continue to label such food and allow the consumer to choose what to put into his or her body. I believe such labeling should also be required for milk with growth hormones in it.

Thank you for your consideration.

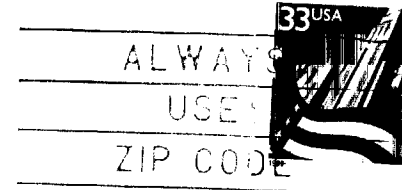
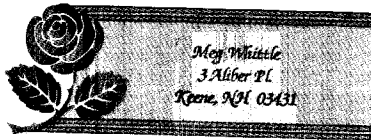
Sincerely,



Meg Whittle

98N 1038

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